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3: Blackwood E-5 (1929-1930) 1932
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tales, in a form which will permit of a fuller discussion of the ethnological problems involved than has been possible in the present paper. It will, however, be clear, I think, that these tales from Buka and North Bougainville fall into line with those reported from other parts of the area known as Melanesia, being bound to them, even where their details differ, by what Halliday in his discussion of Greek folk-tales characterises as " a common tone or ἦθος, easier to discern than to describe."

BEATRICE BLACKWOOD.

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SKETCH MAP OF MELANESIA, SHOWING LOCALITIES FROM WHICH PARALLELS ARE CITED.

PLATE I.

3: Blackwood E-5 (1929-1930) 1932
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5: Blackwood E-5 (1929-1930)1935
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Since several different plants are used for the same sickness, and the same plant often for conditions widely different in character, the sum of the actual medical knowledge possessed by these natives may be very small and it seems likely that most of their remedies work, if they work at all, solely by the power of suggestion. At the same time it is noteworthy that several of the comparatively small number of plants which could be identified from my pressed specimens are identical with those used for similar purposes in Australia or in India. Many of these have no particularly striking characteristics which would attract attention among the mass of green in the bush. These coincidences cannot well be the result of contact, and would seem too numerous to have come about by chance. Without analysis, for which large quantities are required, it is impossible to settle the question as to how many of these plants actually possess therapeutic value. It would be interesting to ascertain whether any of them are used for similar purposes in tropical Africa, but I have not been able to find any account of an African materia medica giving the necessary botanical identifications.

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